



PETROGALE BRACHYOTIS, *Coold*

H. Suter del.

E. Selman del. sculp.

PETROGALE BRACHYOTIS, *Gould.*

Short-eared Rock-Wallaby.

Spec. Char.—*Pet. vellere e fusco cinereo, apud partes inferiores albescente; caudâ floccosâ, ad apicem nigrâ; utrâque genâ lineâ albescente notatâ.*

Descr.—General colour greyish brown; under surface of the body dirty white, obscurely tinted with yellowish: on each side of the body, near the base of the fore leg, a dusky patch; a dirty white mark is observable on each side of the head, and an indistinct mark on the base of the thigh; tail moderately bushy, coloured at the base like the body, but the apical third dusky black.

	Male.	
	feet.	inches.
Length from the nose to the extremity of the tail	3	0
„ of tail	1	3
„ „ tarsus and toes, including the nail		5
„ „ arms and hands, including the nails		$3\frac{1}{2}$
„ „ face from the tip of the nose to the base of the ear . . .		$3\frac{3}{4}$
„ „ ear		$1\frac{3}{4}$

Petrogale brachyotis, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., for Oct. 1840.

THIS new species of Rock-Wallaby was presented to me by Captain George Grey, the present Governor of South Australia, who procured it on the north-west coast while traversing that previously unexplored region. Only two specimens were collected: these fortunately proved to be a male and a female, and apparently adult. It differs from most of the other species with which I am acquainted in the shortness and scantiness of its hair, which may, perhaps, be attributed to the great heat of the latitudes it inhabits, and the peculiar localities to which the animal resorts, viz. hard craggy surfaces exposed to the burning sun. The following account, which has been kindly furnished me by His Excellency, is all that is known respecting it:—

“ I procured this species near Hanover Bay, December the 29th, 1837. It is excessively wild and shy in its habits; frequenting in the day-time the highest and most inaccessible rocks, and only comes down to the valleys to feed early in the morning and late in the evening. When disturbed in the day-time it bounds among the roughest and most precipitous rocks, apparently with the greatest facility, and is so watchful and wary that it is by no means easy to get a shot at it. How it can support the excessive heat of the sand rocks amongst which it always lies is to me truly astonishing, the temperature there during the hottest part of the day being frequently 136°. I have never seen this animal on the low land or the plains, and I consequently believe it to be entirely an inhabitant of the mountains.”